



NEWSLETTER N° 3, January 1999

Dear Map Friend,

As we move briskly into the New Year, we may look back upon 1998 as having given us a rather promising start for our young Circle. The Map Evening in March, our very first event, solicited a great deal of spontaneous interest and paved the way for the formal establishment of the BIMCC, which was achieved in June. October took us to a well attended tour of the City Archives in Brugge with its remarkable 16th century wall-map of the Brugse Vrije by Claeissens after Pieter Pourbus, and in December we paid tribute to Abraham Ortelius with a commemoration that put us firmly on the map, so to speak. Both the conference and the exhibition visits provided a captivating insight into the famous Antwerp cartographer's world 400 years ago; a summary follows below.

Our Membership is approaching 50 now, and the growing number of enquiries seems to confirm that we are on the right track both in respect of the programme offered and the way in which this is conducted. Particularly encouraging is the harmonious blending of disciplines we are achieving, bringing together academics, representatives of the trade and the map enthusiast (collector or not, beginner or accomplished specialist), each branch complementary to the others and visibly happy with the cross-fertilization that results.

Our future programme takes this into account; we aim at maintaining three main events per year: around February a seminar on a practical aspect of map collecting for beginners and confirmed collectors alike, in March/April we have our traditional Map Evening on a convivial note, when participants bring along a piece from their collection to talk about, and this provides an excellent opportunity for prospective members to get to know the Circle; and then in October usually a visit will take us to an exhibition or a collection with a specific map content. Every second year in November/December, a conference will be organized on a topical subject of the history of cartography, combined with an exhibition, and you might make a note of the event planned for the second half of 2000:

« From the Low Countries to the High Seas – Dutch maps from the Age of Discovery » which will also highlight the 400th anniversary of the first Dutch expedition to Japan.

Although for practical reasons we have adopted English as our working language, there is no problem to establish an individual line of communication with readers in Dutch, French or German. Those wishing to join the Circle and/or intend to participate in the one or other event announced will find a registration form attached.

All further information from:

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